

evaluation system 50. Then, the automated evaluation system 50 compares the output result and the reference output result to determine whether or not the output result is correct, and outputs a determination result to a result log file or the like. Furthermore, the automated evaluation system 50 automatically performs the input, comparison and determination steps repeatedly for a plurality of input events and automatically evaluates the application program AP.

Page 4, lines 12-21:

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

An automated evaluation system in accordance with the present invention to solve the problems described above is provided, wherein the automated evaluation system that automatically evaluates an application program to be operated on a target system according to a given input event and a reference output result corresponding to the given input event, is characterized in that it is accessible to a simulation apparatus that simulates an operation of the application program and compares a simulation result corresponding to the given input event by the simulation apparatus with the reference output result to thereby perform an automated evaluation.

Page 5, lines 6-9:

According to the automated evaluation system that is equipped with a memory device that is accessible by the automated evaluation system and the simulation apparatus, the automated evaluation system and the simulation apparatus can be accessed by one another.

Page 5, lines 13-14:

Furthermore, the simulation apparatus and the automated evaluation system can be realized using the same computer.

Page 6, lines 8-15:

Also, the program in accordance with the present invention is characterized in that it accesses the simulation apparatus through an application programming interface implemented in an operating system of the computer.

According to the program described above, the automated evaluation system and the simulation apparatus can be accessed by one another using a function implemented in the operating system of the computer that executes the program.

Page 6, lines 20-22:

Fig. 2 is an illustration showing accesses between an automated evaluation system in accordance with the embodiment of the present invention and a simulator.

Page 7, lines 1-3:

Fig. 4 shows a conventional structure for performing an automated evaluation of an application program of a microcomputer.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

IN THE ABSTRACT:

Please substitute the following abstract for the present abstract:

--An automated evaluation system that can retain the quality of an application program and also maintain stability in the automated evaluation. The automated evaluation system automatically evaluates an application program operated on a target system according to a given input event and a corresponding reference output result, while being accessible to a simulation apparatus that simulates operation of the application program, and compares a simulation result corresponding to the given input event with the reference output result to thereby perform an automated evaluation.--

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-5 without prejudice nor disclaimer of subject matter.

Please add the following new claims 6-16:

--6. (New) A system for evaluating an application program, comprising:

an evaluator that reads each input event and each corresponding stored reference output result, and transmits each input event in response to a system command; and

a simulator that receives each read input event from the evaluator, simulates an operation of the application program based on each input event, and outputs a simulation result corresponding to that input event;

wherein each simulation result is compared with the corresponding reference output result to thereby perform an automated evaluation of the application program.

7. (New) The system of claim 6, further comprising a memory that is accessible by both the evaluator and the simulator, wherein the simulator outputs each simulation result to the memory.
8. (New) The system of claim 6, wherein the evaluator and the simulator are embodied in a computer.
9. (New) The system of claim 8, wherein the evaluator is a program of instructions executable by the computer.
10. (New) The system of claim 9, wherein each system command is an application programming interface command implemented in an operating system of the computer and through which the evaluator and the simulator communicate.
11. (New) The system of claim 9, wherein each system command is a function implemented in an operating system of the computer and through which the evaluator and the simulator communicate.
12. (New) The system of claim 6, further comprising an input event file that contains each input event, and a reference output file that contains each corresponding reference output result.

13. (New) The system of claim 12, wherein the evaluator stores event data for each input event contained in the input event file.

14. (New) The system of claim 12, wherein the evaluator stores reference data for each reference output result contained in the reference output file.

15. (New) The system of claim 6, further comprising a display, wherein the simulation result and the reference output result are displayed on the display.

16. (New) A method for evaluating an application program, comprising the steps of:

(a) reading each input event and each corresponding stored reference output result;

(b) transmitting each read input event in response to an application programming interface command;

(c) simulating an operation of the application program based on each input event, and outputting a simulation result corresponding to that input event;

(d) comparing each simulation result with the corresponding reference output result; and

(e) performing an automated evaluation of the application program based on the comparison results in step (d).--